

**From:** Robert Johnson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/22/02 12:03pm  
**Subject:** microsoft Litigation

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft is the best thing that has happened to the IT industry and I cannot imagine where we would be were it not for the innovation of Microsoft and companies like it who are willing to press for change and increased productivity. I recently read a government survey of strong American companies that ranked Microsoft at number two. It is therefore amazing to me that a company that is supposed to be held in such high regard by the government is being pursued so vigorously by the legal system. In my estimation, this type of litigation is in total opposition of the concept of free enterprise and has done a wealth of damage to the country's economy, and the way the country's government is viewed.

Microsoft deems the settlement as fair and has made several strides to honor the terms of this settlement. They have agreed to make it much easier for competitors to interoperate in the Windows environment, submit the decisions of a technical committee, and have agreed to grant intellectual property license and release internal protocol to competitors. These are small examples of Microsoft's efforts to cooperate with the terms of the settlement.

I am truly looking forward to this matter being wrapped up as soon as possible. There is really no good that can come from continued litigation. In fact, wrapping the case up now will be in the best interest of the economy, as it would give Microsoft the opportunity to refocus all its attention on creating new products.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnson